

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1888.

The Berkeley School Meeting.

A detailed account of a meeting of the residents of the Berkeley School district was given in THE CITIZEN of last week. It says: "Among the propositions presented for consideration were the following: The erection of a primary school in Watessing and one in Fairview, and the conversion of Berkeley School into a grammar school; another, was the construction of a building on the present site of Berkeley School which should furnish ample primary facilities and a grammar department; another, to construct a building that should be complete from the primary to the high class inclusive." Promising that it has already been shown in these columns that there is abundance of room in the Grammar and Centre Primary Schools for all the scholars likely to need instruction for some years to come, we propose briefly to examine these various propositions in the light of easily obtainable school statistics.

Laying aside the cost of buildings, school supplies, repairs and superintendence, the items of coal, janitor's wages and salaries of teachers, foot up at the Berkeley School to about \$2,245 per year. A smaller school with two teachers would cost for these three items about \$1,100 per year. It follows therefore that if these propositions are made on a business basis they should be justified by the needs of the various neighborhoods indicated.

The Berkeley School district embraces all "scholars not residing north of Montgomery street, Joseph B. Harvey's and Conger street." Dividing this district into three neighborhoods we find the following as the number enrolled and in attendance in the various schools indicated.

Number of pupils from South of Glenwood avenue and West of Bloomfield avenue:

	Enrolled.	Attendance.
High School	1	1
Grammar School	55	41
Berkeley School	118	88

Number of pupils from Fairview proper:

	Enrolled.	Attendance.
High School	2	2
Grammar School	12	10
Berkeley School	14	10

Number of pupils from East of Bloomfield avenue but just in Fairview:

	Enrolled.	Attendance.
High School	5	4
Grammar School	27	24
Berkeley School	28	25

Total number of pupils in district:

	Enrolled.	Attendance.
High School	8	7
Grammar School	94	75
Berkeley School	160	123

A primary school in Fairview then would have ten scholars in attendance, a number too ridiculously small to warrant its building and maintenance.

A school in Watessing would take from Berkeley School 88 scholars from an average attendance of 123, leaving in the Berkeley School only 37 scholars, and these to be divided into four classes. It must necessarily follow that if a school-house is built in Watessing, the Berkeley site must be abandoned or turned into a grammar school.

At first view this would appear to be a feasible plan. It will not however stand the test of examination, for the 94 scholars from the Berkeley district enrolled in the grammar school, of whom only 75 are in attendance, are scattered through five different classes as follows:

	West of Bloomfield Ave.	East of Bloomfield Ave.
1st Class	6	5
2d "	11	4
3d "	11	5
4th "	9	6
5th "	18	19

Total enrollment 55
Average attendance 39

It will be seen that the first four classes varying in number from 11 to 16 are too small for one teacher. The usual size of classes throughout the school is 40. The fifth class alone nears the line where it might justify the employment of a teacher for its instruction. It would have an enrollment of 37 with an average attendance of about 28.

We then reach these conclusions.

(1) A school at Fairview is not justified by the present needs of the district.

(2) A school at Watessing would involve the abandoning of the Berkeley site or its use as a grammar school.

(3) A graded grammar school at Berkeley cannot be maintained because of the small number of scholars in the various classes.

(4) A fifth class might be added at the present Berkeley School to correspond to the fifth class in the Grammar School. It would however, begin with a small number of scholars and would add the salary of one teacher to the present expense. They can now be taught in the Grammar School (Bellevue avenue) without this cost. In presenting these facts for the information of our readers, we aim only to secure such a careful and candid consideration of this matter as shall lead to wise action.

Installation at Westminster Church.

On Tuesday evening a large congregation filled the Westminster Church, the occasion being the installation of Rev. George A. Paul as pastor of the church. Newark Presbytery was in attendance, according to adjournment, though quite a number had sent letters of regret. After an organ prelude and opening anthem, the Moderator, Rev. D. W. Luck, called the Presbytery to order and consulted it with prayer. Dr. Luck, the pastor-elect of the Montclair church, was received as a member of Presbytery and the resident pastors and ministers of Bloomfield who were present, were invited to sit as corresponding members.

The installation services then proceeded. The Scriptures were read and prayer offered by Rev. I. H. Polhemus of Newark. Dr. J. Clement French, pastor of the Park Presbyterian Church of Newark, preached an admirable and forcible sermon from the words, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89), joined with the command "Preach the word" (II Tim 4:2). The constitutional questions were asked by the Rev. H. W. Balentine, and after an installing prayer the pastoral relation was declared established, to the mutual joy of pastor and people.

A special feature of the evening was the public recognition by Dr. Knox of the Memorial Tablets, just placed on either side of the pulpit, in memory of Dr. Kennedy and Mr. Duffield. In well chosen words, Dr. Knox drew a parallel between the two sainted men who had filled the Westminster pulpit, and then turning to their successors, delivered a tender and solemn charge to him. Dr. Gillespie of New York, closed the services by a charge equally appropriate to the people, and after benediction many pressed forward to give the right hand of fellowship to the pastor. Many from other churches joined in the welcome, a gratifying token of the cordial relations existing in the community. The efforts of the young people of the Westminster church in decorating the pulpit with flowers and growing plants were highly appreciated, as was also the music of the occasion. Mrs. Ballantine presided at the organ, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. Skinner, Mr. Jas. Beach and Mr. Dodd, the precentor of the church, rendered the vocal selections.

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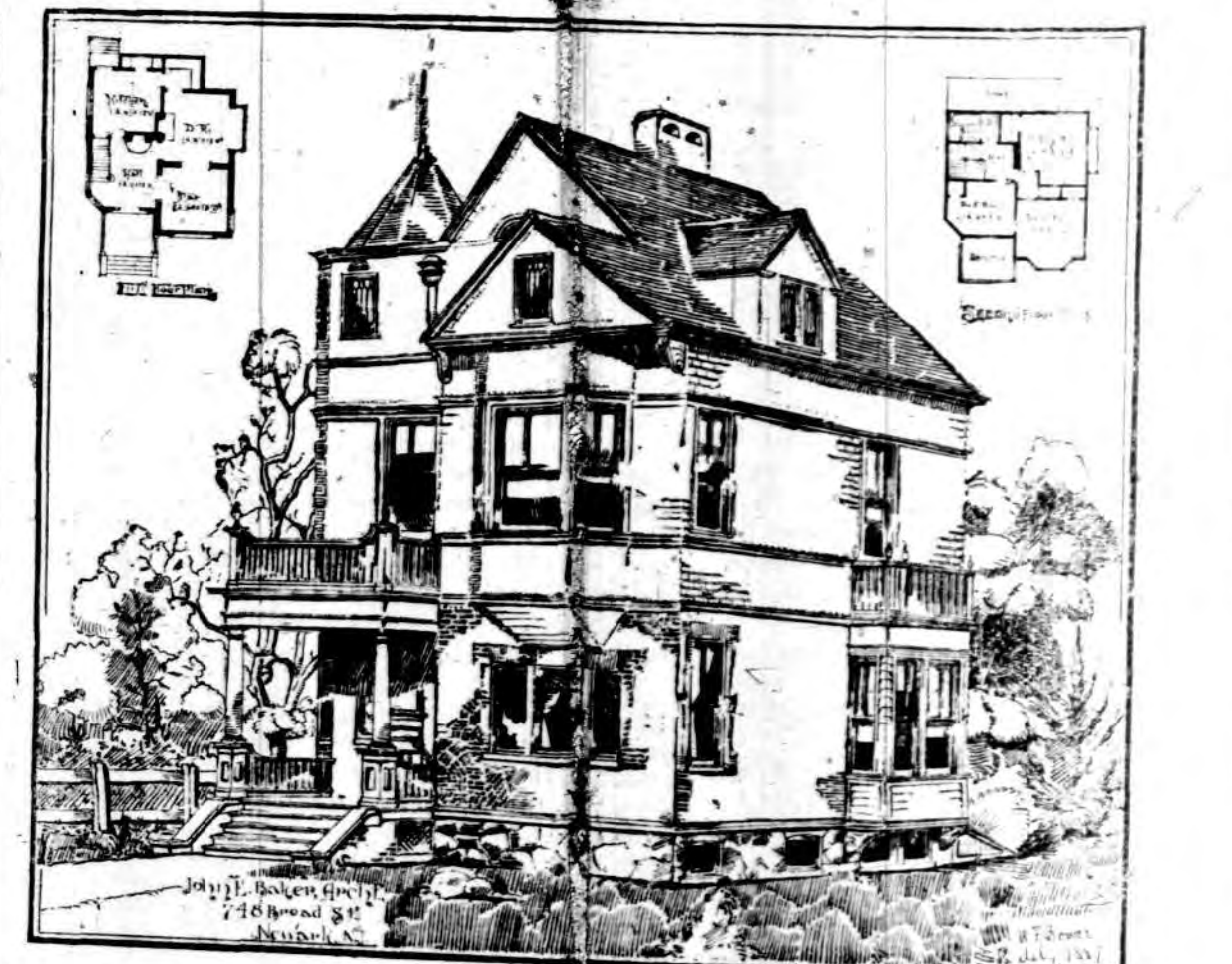
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